

NOTES FROM THE

Comptroller Officer Assignments Section

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I'd like to begin my tenure as the newest Comptroller Officer Assignments team member with a special thanks to my Palace Dollar teammate Captain Ed Leszynski and the Contracting Officer Assignment team for helping me get settled into the job. I'd also like to thank all those FMers who called to welcome me. I know that Maj Tim Little left some pretty big shoes to fill, but I'm up to the challenge and ready to do all I can to ensure that your next move is the best possible match for you and the Air Force.

I come to this job with almost twelve years of financial experience. I started my career as a budget officer at Dyess AFB TX. I then completed a challenging remote tour at Kunsan AB ROK. From Korea I went to US Central Air Forces/9th Air Force at Shaw AFB SC, where I had the opportunity to travel several times to the Middle East in support of our DESERT STORM/SOUTHERN WATCH missions. As you can probably guess, I am a very enthusiastic advocate of getting that contingency training/hands-on real-world experience to enhance our daily responsibilities as financial management officers. From Shaw AFB, I moved to Pacific Air Forces (Hickam AFB) where I served as a MAJCOM budget analyst and executive officer to the comptroller. That assignment brought me to HQ AFPC where I arrived in late June.

Upon arriving to HQ AFPC, the first thing on my plate was to get ready for the CY00 Comptroller Squadron Commanders Board which will be held at Randolph AFB on 12-13 Oct 99. The board announcement message (R131455Z Jul 99) detailed eligibility criteria for comptroller squadrons/flights that will open from 1 Jan 00 - 31 Dec 00. Eligibility waivers are being worked on a case by case basis. Specific guidance on declination procedures was also explained in the Jul 99-announcement message. Officers who meet the Oct 99 board must fully understand that they are worldwide volunteers who can be assigned to any comptroller command position. We will use the Preference Worksheet during the bidding process to match candidates' priorities to openings; therefore, it's extremely important for all eligible officers to submit several priority preferences to assist in this process. MAJCOM FMs will then work with

hiring officials (NAF/Wing Commanders) to select the best candidate for their vacancy. REMINDER: Those deciding to decline once an assignment is locked will be required to use the 7-Day option per normal assignment procedures. Lastly, since this is a records review only board, competing officers should take actions to ensure that your records are correct and ready to give a current picture of your financial management career.

Before we leave the squadron commander subject, I would like to clear up any remaining confusion on the recommended tour length for 65F sitting commanders. Although there was some recent discussion about increasing the sitting time for commanders to 3 years, we are back to business with a recommended TOS of 2 years for comptroller commanders with an option to extend to 3 years. This means that current 65F commanders with a minimum of 2 years TOS in CY00 can meet the upcoming board, as long as the respective hiring official approves the rotation.

I want to take the remainder of my first article to give you a little of my personal philosophy which I intend to emphasize during my tenure as Chief of Comptroller Officer Assignments. First and foremost, please don't hesitate to call and ask questions. Don't forget, Ed and I are here to ensure you get the best customer service possible. No question is too dumb, and no telephone call is too long when it comes to discussing comptroller officer assignments. Second, frequently review the AMS. This new AF system is your guide to officer assignments. There is always some useful information out there to assist you in preparing for your next AF move. Third, ensure your PWS reflects your current preferences. With the current climate of support officers continuing to fill special duty assignments due to the shortage of rated personnel, you can expect that at some point in your AF career you will probably be tagged to complete a career broadening tour. Why not be proactive and let us know the ones you are interested in pursuing. Lastly, and simply, stay in touch. We love hearing from you and want to know where you want to go next. You'll never know if your dream assignment is available and you are the best match unless we know. Putting the right person in the right job at the right time is our business. Help us help you!